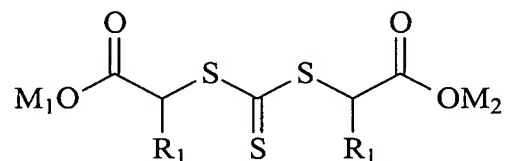


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Compounds ~~characterised in that they have~~ having a chemical structure in accordance with the following formula (I):



where R₁ designates an alkyl radical having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, an aromatic radical ~~possibly~~ optionally substituted by an alkyl chain having 1 to 4 carbon atoms;
and where M₁ and M₂ designate the hydrogen atom, an amine salt, ammonium or an alkaline cation, and are identical or different.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Compounds according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the amines are chosen from among the aliphatic and/or cyclic primary, secondary or tertiary amines ~~such as~~ including stearylamine, the ethanolamines (mono-, di-, triethanolamine), mono and diethylamine, cyclohexylamine, methylcyclohexylamine, amino methyl propanol and morpholine.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Compounds according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the alkaline cations are chosen from among sodium, potassium and lithium.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Compounds according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ R₁ is an alkyl radical having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, and M₁ and M₂ are identical and designate the hydrogen atom, sodium or potassium.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Compounds according to claim 4, ~~characterised in~~ that wherein R₁ is an alkyl radical having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, and M₁ and M₂ are identical and designate the hydrogen atom or sodium.

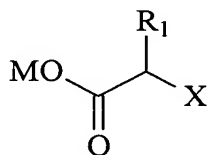
Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Compounds according to claim 5, ~~characterised in~~ that wherein R₁ is an alkyl radical having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, and M₁ and M₂ are identical and designate the hydrogen atom or sodium.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Compounds according to claim 6, ~~characterised in~~ that wherein R₁ is the alkyl radical having 4 carbon atoms, and M₁ and M₂ are identical and designate the hydrogen atom or sodium.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): Compounds according to claim 7, ~~characterised in~~ that wherein R₁ is the alkyl radical having 4 carbon atoms, and M₁ and M₂ are identical and designate sodium.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): Process for manufacturing in water a compound of formula (I) ~~characterised by~~ comprising the steps of:

a) Bringing into contact by pouring an aqueous solution of disodic trithiocarbonate Na₂CS₃ or an aqueous solution of dipotassic trithiocarbonate K₂CS₃ on a solution of a halogenated salt, which salt has a chemical structure in accordance with the following formula (II):



where R₁ designates an alkyl radical having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, an aromatic radical ~~possibly~~ optionally substituted by an alkyl chain having 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

where M designates ammonium or an alkaline cation;

where X designates a halogen.

b) and ~~possibly a stage of~~ acidification of the resulting compound after ~~stage~~ step a).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A process according to claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the alkaline cations are chosen from among sodium, potassium and lithium.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A process according to ~~one of the claims 9 to 10~~ claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein R₁ is an alkyl radical having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, and M designates sodium or potassium.

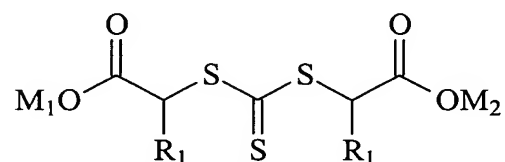
Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A process according to claim 11, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein R₁ is an alkyl radical having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, and M designates sodium or potassium.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A process according to claim 12, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein R₁ is the alkyl radical having 4 carbon atoms, and M designates sodium or potassium.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A process according to claim 13, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein R₁ is the alkyl radical having 4 carbon atoms, and M designates sodium.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A process according to ~~one of the claims 9 to 14~~ claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein X designates bromine.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): ~~Use A method of using the as transfer agents in a process of controlled radical polymerisation of the RAFT type, in water, of homopolymers of acrylic acid and/or copolymers of acrylic acid with other water-soluble monomers, of compounds characterised in that their~~ having chemical structure is in accordance with the following formula (I'):



where R_1 designates an alkyl radical having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an aromatic radical possibly optionally substituted by an alkyl chain having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; and where M_1 and M_2 designate the hydrogen atom, an amine salt, ammonium or an alkaline cation, and are identical or different as transfer agents in a process of controlled radical polymerisation of the RAFT type, in water, of homopolymers of acrylic acid and/or copolymers of acrylic acid with other water-soluble monomers.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of compounds as transfer agents according to~~ The method of claim 16, characterised in that wherein the amines are chosen from among the aliphatic and/or cyclic primary, secondary or tertiary amines such as stearylamine, the ethanolamines (mono-, di-, triethanolamine), mono and diethylamine, cyclohexylamine, methylcyclohexylamine, amino methyl propanol and morpholine.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of compounds as transfer agents according to~~ The method of claim 16, characterised in that wherein the alkaline cations are chosen from among sodium, potassium and lithium.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of compounds as transfer agents according to~~ claims 16 to 18, The method of claim 16, characterised in that wherein R_1 is an alkyl radical

having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, and M_1 and M_2 are identical and designate the hydrogen atom, sodium or potassium.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of compounds as transfer agents according to~~
The method of claim 19, characterised in that R_1 is an alkyl radical having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, and M_1 and M_2 are identical and designate the hydrogen atom or sodium.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of compounds as transfer agents according to~~
~~claim 20~~, The method of claim 20, characterised in that R_1 is an alkyl radical having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, and M_1 and M_2 are identical and designate the hydrogen atom or sodium.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of compounds as transfer agents according to~~
~~claim 21~~, The method of claim 21, characterised in that R_1 is the alkyl radical having 4 carbon atoms, and M_1 and M_2 are identical and designate the hydrogen atom or sodium.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of compounds as transfer agents according to~~
The method of claim 22, characterised in that R_1 is the alkyl radical having 4 carbon atoms, and M_1 and M_2 are identical and designate sodium.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of compounds as transfer agents in a process~~
~~for controlled radical polymerisation of the RAFT type, in water, of homopolymers of acrylic~~
~~acid, according to one of the claims 16 to 23~~ The method of claim 16 characterised in that
wherein the said process is accomplished in a continuous manner, in a batch or semi-batch manner.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of compounds as transfer agents in a process for controlled radical polymerisation of the RAFT type, in water, of homopolymers of acrylic acid, according to, The method of claim 24, characterised in that~~ wherein the said process is accomplished in a batch or semi-batch manner.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of compounds as transfer agents in a process for controlled radical polymerisation of the RAFT type, in water, of copolymers of acrylic acid with other water soluble monomers, according to one of the claims 16 to 23 claim 16, characterised in that~~ wherein the said process is accomplished in a continuous manner, in a batch or semi-batch manner.